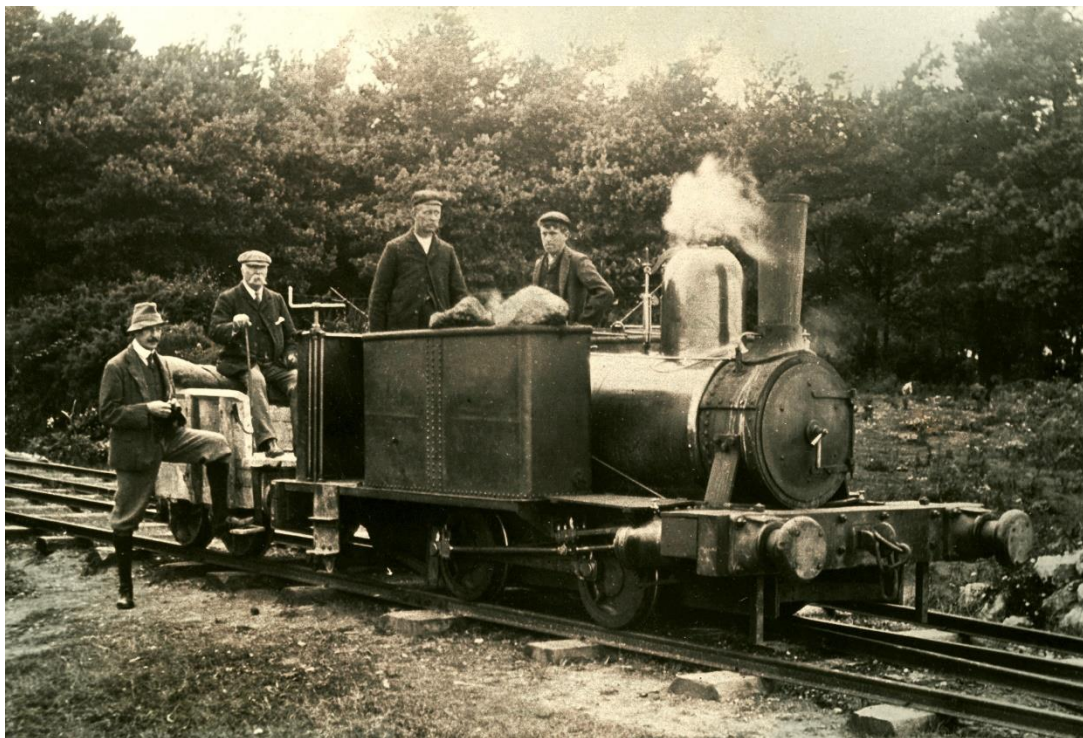




Tiny's top stands tall back at its original home

The distinctive chimney from one of the original narrow gauge steam engines used to haul clay across the Purbeck heathland has returned home after more than a century and a half since it first went into service. Called 'Tiny', the engine was based at Norden and operated on the Fayles Tramway for more than seventy years before it was retired in 1948. The stove-pipe chimney is the only remaining feature of 'Tiny' and its survival owes everything to the inquisitive mind and determination of a tenacious 15-year-old boy.



Tiny, one of the steam engines that hauled clay across Purbeck's heathland, pictured at Goathorn in 1935

The engine's chimney has now been donated to Purbeck Mining Museum at Norden by Paul Abbott from Lyndhurst. As a young boy fascinated with trains and steam engines, Paul paid many visits to the Pike Bros clay industry railway at Furzebrook. He became a familiar face for the engine drivers and mineworkers and was frequently given rides in the engine cabs. During one of his many visits, he found a discarded chimney in one of the work sheds. The engineers confirmed it was the chimney from 'Tiny' which had been dismantled several years earlier.

"I remember many discussions with the engine drivers – with Alfie Gover in particular," says Paul. "They always gave me such a warm welcome and I was over the moon when they said I could have the chimney. But it was pretty heavy – and very sooty - so it was

quite a struggle for a young boy to take it home! Thankfully, I was given a lift in a Pike's lorry to Wareham station. From there, I took it by train to Brockenhurst and then by bus to our home in Lyndhurst. The chimney has always been a treasured possession at home and has spent the last seventy years as an unusual potholder for garden flowers. It is only right that it should now come back to its former working home and I'm delighted it is now on display at Purbeck Mining Museum."

"It is over 75 years since Tiny was withdrawn from operation," adds Museum Lead, Peter Sills. "We thought the only remaining evidence of this small but unique and powerful locomotive was confined to archive photographs and grainy films."



Some of Purbeck Mining Museum's volunteers look on as Paul Abbott (right) hands over the original chimney from Tiny to Museum Lead, Peter Sills (centre right)

"The engine was originally called 'Corfe' but soon adopted its popular nickname in view of its diminutive size. Interestingly, it wasn't just used to haul clay across the heathland. Around a hundred years ago it also hauled a wagon that resembled a mobile shed to ferry the children of clay miners to and from their school in Corfe! It was quite a surprise when Paul contacted us and offered the chimney as a donation. It's a great addition to the myriad of artefacts and audio-visual presentations we have on display in the restored mine building at Norden, showcasing an industry that played a pivotal role in the Purbecks for several centuries. We are indebted to Paul for his teenage enthusiasm in helping to save such an iconic artefact and for his generous donation."